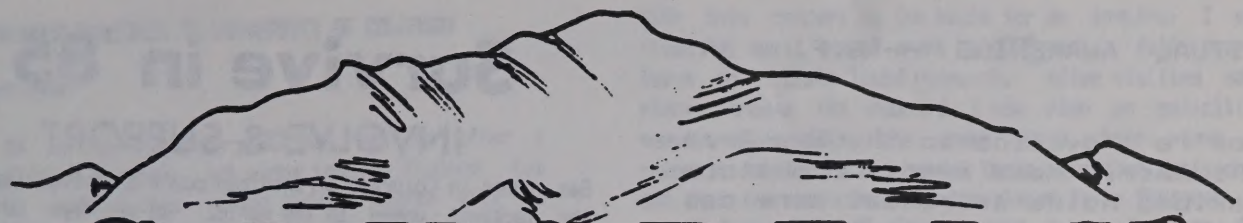


GAYSPEAK

NEWSLETTER OF THE PIKES PEAK GAY COMMUNITY CENTER
VOLUME 7 NUMBER 6 **SUMMER 1985**

SPECIAL WOMEN'S ISSUE

Gay Pride Week

Gay Pride Week will be celebrated June 15th - 23rd. See the calendar inset for details.

PSN PICNIC

On the 16th, Professional Social Network will sponsor its annual picnic from 9 am - 4 pm at Palmer Park. A $3.00 ticket buys you a stake (not steak!) in the Bar-B-Que which runs from 11-12:30. The softball challense game between MCC and Count-Me-In starts at 1 pm. The winner plays PSN.
A VCR will be raffled off in the afternoon. Volleyball, hiking and a general good time are available to all.
Come one and all! Happy Gays are here again!

BLOCK PARTY

What are you doing Saturday, June 22nd?
Join the Helpline Volunteers and The Community at the Block Party. The tickets are cheap. The fun plentiful-even films are inside the Annex on the VCR. Live entertainment. Food booths. Game Booths. Auctions.
FUN, FUN, FUN, and open only to the Gay Community.

JOIN US!

DENVER PARADE

Denver's annual Gay Pride Parade will be the 23rd. A continental breakfast will be served by Count-Me-In at the Community Center at 9 a.m. Then join a car pool to ride to Cheeseman Park. The parade starts at 12:30.
The Pikes Peak Gay Community Center will march behind our banner the "Pikes Peak Region." We also have a great float! There are prizes for the largest marching unit and for several float catesories.
After the parade, the parties start at TRAX in Denver and the Hide-N-Seek in Colorado Springs.
Join us for a Great Day in Denver!

10TH MICHIGAN WOMYN MUSIC FESTIVAL

This anniversary extravaganza to be held August 8-11, on 651 beautiful wooded land, promises 36 concerts, dances, workshops, games, camping, crafts, theater, comedy and more. This is an incredible gathering of thousands of lesbians. Write WWTMC, 1501 Lyons St., Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, 48858. Advanced tickets postmarked by July 30 are $90.00

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

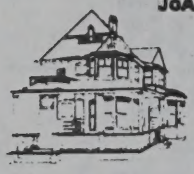
This summer, the International Women's conference will convene in Nairobi, Kenya. There will be women from all over the world and the main focus will be world peace and an end to world hunger.

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING -- S.F. BAY AREA

If you're traveling to the Bay Area this summer, Mama Bears Bookstore in Oakland holds spiritual services every Sunday especially for lesbians and children. Lead by writer and psychic healer Paula Gunn, and poet Judy Grahn you will find this a totally unique and uplifting experience.

American Secretarial Service

JoAnn Goldsmith



Word Processing — Typing
Resumes — Mailing Labels
Word Star Instruction

Member
Professional
Association of
Secretarial
Services

635-7111

815 North Weber, Suite 102
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Colorado state NOW conference was held in Colorado Springs on June 1. Keynoted by Dottie Lamm, it was a lively gathering with many informative workshops: communications, financial management, non-sexist parenting, nutrition to name a few. You can contact the local National Organization for Women by calling 570-1153

GAYSPEAK is published monthly by the Pikes Peak Gay community Center
P. O. Box 574
Colorado Springs, CO 80901
Center office and library;
1809 DePaul

Editor Paul Kutsche

STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editors Alma Cremonesi
Shellie K.

Contributors Cindy L.
Jacquelyn Beyer
A. Gabriel

Publication date is 15th of the month. Deadline for submitting material, 10th of the month. Call 473-5516 evenings.

Survive in '85

INVOLVE & SUPPORT

Gay women in Colorado Springs can count ourselves among the luckiest women in the world. We are free to be lesbians. To have children or not. In a world where women do 2/3 of the world's work and own just 1% (10% in the U.S.) of the world's property we are people with choices. The sole role of most of world's women is to produce as many children as possible.

Indeed we are fortunate to have so many choices. But with freedom comes tremendous complexities and responsibilities to preserve our advances to make the best of our lives. Because we are gay, a discriminated minority group, we have certain obligations to work to retain our right to be gay.

Living in Colorado Springs, the military capital of the world, provides a greater challense toward building a supportive gay community. (In 1983 the military spent 22 million dollars investigating gays within the military.) Because of the pervasive military, the most patriarchal institution in our society, we are constant game for "horizontal hostility," part of what Flo Kennedy calls "The Pathology of Oppression." Those with economic, political, and social power have tremendous stake in our division, our fighting among ourselves, our cliquishness, our exclusive, elitist events and ways of relating. If we batter each other (the local Domestic Violence Prevention center accepts lesbians), withhold information, exclude certain lesbians from events and deny who we are, we increase isolation and emotional pain and weaken our ability to grow and gain power for ourselves and our community.

Getting involved, supporting, participating, patronizing, networking with gay and lesbian women's organizations and businesses are means by which we grow strong. The few already established groups are in constant jeopardy for need of your involvement and participation. The gay hotline (471-4GAY), the Pikes Peak Gay Community Center and the Professional Social Network welcome your involvement. Lesbians have Count-Me-In, an excellent support and outreach group. Other good places for lesbians are Dale Street Cafe, Henri's, Poor Richard's, Chapter One Books, Health Service Clinic, Metropolitan Community Churches, and the National Organization for Women. WE ARE SPECIAL. We all are at risk for being who we are in this society. For this reason we are compelled to be more honest and more inclusive with every lesbian. Hope to see you.

Alma Cremonesi

Thanks to JoAnn Goldsmith for doing the tedious task of typing this issue.

LESBIAN STUDIES COMES TO UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

Jacquelyn Beyer

A bit of an exasseration--UCCS has yet to offer a Women's Studies Prosram, let alone Lesbian Studies. but the first identifiably listed lesbian course will be offered durins fall seaester, 1985. The course title, as listed in the schedule of courses, will be Honors 440, Lesbian Communities, cross-listed in Geosraphy and Environaental Studies as GES 470, Issues in Society: Lesbian Communities. The course is for three credits and is scheduled in Main Hall 308 froa 4:30 p.a. to 7:05 p.a. Fridays. Resistration for fall seaester will be on August 26-28 with classes startins on August 30 for this class.

Soae of you aay have concerns about takins such a course transcript or beins identified by attendins class. I can discuss any issues such as these with you, includins the possibility of auditins the class without resistration. Call ae at 598-0850 or 593-3661.

Special thanks to Muriel Davis for foundins Colorado Sprinss Parents of Gays and her contribution to our community.

WE ARE EVERYWHERE: THE GEOGRAPHY OF HAVEN--a report on research into the location and strensth of lesbian communities, by Jacquelyn Beyer, University of Colorado, Colorado Sprinss.

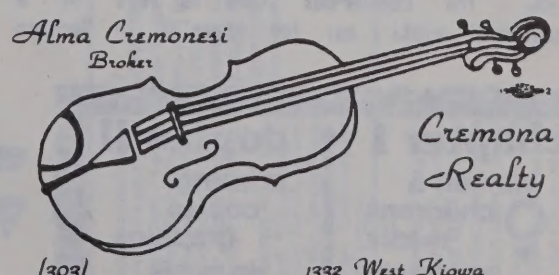
This is a brief prosress report about a study I initiated in sprins, 1984. The principal professional "nudse" was the publication in 1983 of a book Her Spaces, Her Place: The Geosraphy of Women. On pase 1, the authors comment that it is difficult to identify women's iapact on the landscape because ". . women are found where aen are found, so the spatial patterns of women simply duplicate the seneral patterns of humankind." It is very clear, especially in examinins the chansins seosraphy of a complex urban, industrial society, that it is indeed difficult to find identifiably ethnic, racial or sender landscapes. But if one thinks of community as soaethins other than a visibly different neighborhood, encompassins architecture, fields, workplaces, recreation spaces, etc., then the idea of a seosraphy of such communities can make sense. So I decided to rest ay case for spatially identifiable lesbian communities on the idea of "community." The concept of "community" has been used by urban sociologists and seographers to identify those communities which sain viability and strensth across space and depend on soae common interest or identification for their aember's sense of belonsins--race, ethnicity, political ideology, or sexual preference.

With this concept as the basis for ay inquiry, I was given a small travel srant by UCCS and a full year's leave to initiate field research. After visitins aany places around the country I now plan on solicitins questionnaire data froa woaen about their views of community structure and needs, their aigration decisions, and their perceptions of better places to be "because of sexual orientation" (as opposed to preferences for particular climates/landscapes or job/family needs. My soal is to develop a clear picture of the arransement--pattern, if you will--of places where other elements than just size of place and popUlation help to explain the vigor, or lack of it, of community. One way to illustrate such a pattern is what I call a contour aap of homophilia--the peaks and valleys of "haven."

Identity as aembers of a community is intricately linked to issues of societal attitudes about sexual behaviors, as well as to race, class, age, relision, ethnicity, education, etc.--it is not surprising, therefore, that scholarly attention has been focused by psychologists, anthropologists, and sociologists as well as by historians, writers and literary critics. It is also clear that such complexity aeans that there is no such thins as "the" lesbian community, especially in larse cities. There is no commonality in appearance, or even in values or attitudes about sexuality or sexual behaviors. The only common attribute is aembership in a ainority, oppressed and discriainated against sroup. A quote froa a aember of a New York sroup illustrates one facet of this status: "Secretiveness breeds a very territorial sense about protection and araament."

The end of stisaatization and the end of secrecy is not in the iaaediate future. Our lives continue to develop in an ataosphere of hostility, ignorance and homophobic discriaination. The aore we know about process and structure of community, the aore effectively we can counter that ataosphere with our own support, caring and productive srowth.

I would be happy to share further inforaation about the study and soae of the resource aaterial I have collected. Much of this will be a part of the course I aa offerins at UCCS next fall (see article elsewhere). My office nuaber is 593-3161.



Renaissance in Lesbian Literature

Lesbian fiction has flourished three times in the 20th century. In the twenties, writers like Renee Vivien, Radclyffe Hall, and Gertrude Stein tried to revive Sappho's island in Parisian salons. The second time was during the twilight years of the fifties when the lesbian paperback romance was popular. today we see a third wave of lesbian writing inspired by the fiction of the past and the feminist and gay movements of the present.

Although the fiction produced by this third wave is very diverse, a number of consistent themes and genres reflect the political and personal concerns of what has come to be known as the lesbian community. these genres include the coming-out novel, such as Rita mae Brown's "Rubyfruit Jungle" (Bantam); the romance, exemplified by Isabele Miller's "Patience and Sarah" (Fawcett); and, finally, utopian fantasies like Monique Wittig's "Les Guerilleres" (Bard; currently out of print) and Sally Gearhart's "The Wanderground" (Alyson).

This last kind of novel reflects a separatist vision of a protective place where women can freely be themselves and love each other. Jill Johnston named this space Lesbian Nation, and June Arnold, in "Sister Gin" (Daughters; currently out of print), imagined it as the 'safe sea of women.' This utopian ideal is based on the fervent belief that feminism and female bonding can eliminate differences between women and heal wounds inflicted by the outside world.

There is also a countertrend in lesbian writing. The harsh and joyful reality of difference is central to the vision of many authors, particularly women of color. They point out that many lesbian communities exist, with different heritages and customs, tastes and colors. Thus, Audre Lorde, in "Zami" (Crossing Press), offers the Caribbean island of Carriacou as another symbolic island home. Political novels, such as Valerie Miner's "Blood Sisters" (St. Martin's), focus on women's confrontations with one another or the patriarchal world. These novels exchange the abstract ideal of sisterhood for old-fashioned political struggle.

Almost every recently published lesbian novel has at its center a woman fully aware and accepting of her lesbianism. The coming-out story is part of a multidimensional plot, as, for example, in Barbara Wilson's murder mystery, "Murder in the Collective" (Seal, $7.95).

Katherine Forrest, in "Daughters of a Coral Dawn" (Naiad, $7.95), creates the latest in a long line of ideal female societies.

One writer, Noretta Koertge, amused rather than inspired by such utopian visions, sharply satirizes the passionate and occasionally naive idealism of lesbian-feminism. In "Valley of the Amazons" (St. Martin's, $6.95), she creates a thinly disguised alter ego who wanders through several neighborhoods (that is, political tendencies) in Lesbian Nation, exposing with her rapier wit the foibles and fantasies of the residents.

No matter what its intention, a lesbian novel, almost by definition, contains a love story. Patience and Sarah created their own island in the safe sea of women, but fictional lovers today live in a more threatening world. In "Lesende", by Jeannine Allard (Alyson, $5.95), Aurelie and Philippe live together for 12 years in an isolated cliffside cottage. When, after their deaths, their neighbors learn that Philippe was really Philippa, they angrily try to destroy every vestige of their memory. This novel ends on a hopeful note, though, for the legend of the lovers lives on to inspire the 'dreams and visions' of Allard's readers.

"Iris," by Janine Veto (Alyson, $6.95), does not hold out even that much hope. The novel's cover captures to perfection a romantic ideal of lesbian love: two women locked in an embrace seem to be rising from the clouds that shroud an isolated cliff. Veto's lovers are a therapist and client. Any romantic notion of the couple sufficient unto itself is seen as too fragile to survive in the dangerous real world.

Hatred and violence directed against women is a recurring theme in lesbian and feminist fiction. Several end with women retaliating against their attackers. The main character in Dodici Azpadu's "Goat Song" (Aunt Lute, $6.50) becomes obsessed with the violence of life on the streets. Unlike the novels that offer female solidarity as a way out of oppression, this disturbing book suggests that escape is not always possible.

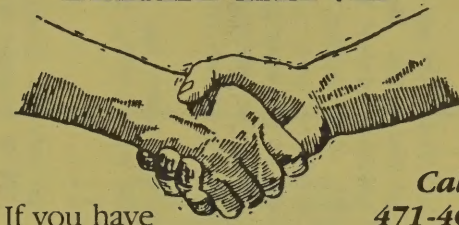
Other recent works are more hopeful about the future for women and humanity in general. The heroine of Ruth Geller's "Triangles" (Crossing Press, $7.95) is certainly aware of how somber the world can be. The most pervasive danger comes from the silences and lies that fragment Sunny. She struggles toward wholeness by naming herself-as a Jew to her coworkers, as a lesbian to her family, and as a survivor to herself. Geller ends her richly detailed and sensitive novel on a realistic, not utopian, note of optimism.

chapter I • copies II
women & childrens media
betty mugasis
printing copies graphics
alex mugasis
the Plaza at Chapel Hills
7880 n.academy 599-0061

GAYSPEAK

The voice of the Colorado Springs Gay Community Center

THE HELPLINE



If you have a problem, question or just need someone to talk to

Call 471-4GAY

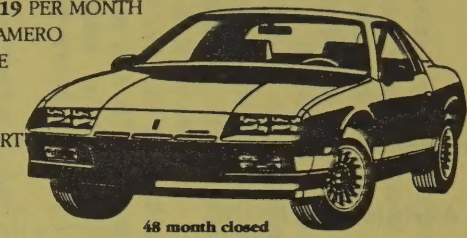
We're here because we ***Care***

FELIX "CAB" SHEPARD

SALES AND LEASING NEW & USED CARS & TRUCKS

THE **BEST** HANDLING CAR IN AMERICA IS YOURS FOR ONLY **$219** PER MONTH

LEASE THE CAMERO SPORT COUPE NO DOWN, T-TOP, AIR, SPOILER, SPORT SUSPENSION & **MORE**



48 month closed end lease at 12% lease rate plus tax with approved credit, #4714

DANIELS MOTORS, INC.
105 NORTH WEBER
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.

BUS. 632-5591

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
GAY PRIDE WEEK CALENDAR *June 15th thru June 23rd*						15 **CORONATION '85** - At the Clarion Hotel Ballroom, Cocktail Party at 6:00pm., Coronation at 7:00pm. Tickets on sale now for $15.00. **GLORIA GAYNOR** - 2 Shows, 10:00 pm. at the Annex, 12:30 am. at the Hide & Seek.
16 **M.M.C.C.** - Special Worship Service. 10:30 am., In honor of the gay martyrs **NETWORK PRIDE PICNIC** - 9 am. to 4 pm. at Palmer Park (Directions will be posted) Tickets on sale now ($3.00) for Bar-B-Que, between 11:00 and 12:30. Plenty of softball and the winner will be picked for the V.C.R. 'Wild Raffle'. **'THE TIMES OF HARVEY MILK** - 8 pm. at the Hide & Seek, $1.50 admission. **P.P.M.C.C.** - Special Worship Service, 5:00 pm.,730 N. Tejon, Special Music. **IMPERIAL COURT** - Victory Brunch, at the Exit, 1:00 pm. Celebrating the new Emperor and Empress.	17 **NETWORK** - Pride Week Get-Together, at Henri's 6 pm. to 9 pm., everyone welcome. Special Guest Speaker Gerard Perruse on 'Reflecting Pride In A Gay Community And How It Can Work For You'	18 **P.P.G.C.C.** - Board Meeting, 7:30 pm. at the Community Center.	19 **M.M.C.C.** - Bible Study - 7 pm. at 1313 Bennet	20 **DIGNITY** - Congregation will meet at 7:00 pm. at Sacred Heart, Special Speaker. **COUNT ME IN** - Meets at 7:30, anyone interested in attending, leave your name and number with the HELPLINE, someone will call you back. This weeks discussion, 'Coming Out Stories.'	21 **Hide & Seek** - Review Show.	22 **BLOCK PARTY** - 10:00 am. to 8:00 pm. in the Community Center parking area. Live entertainment featuring 'Annie Lenore and Vicki Shepard w/ H 3 O, Food Booths, Game Booths, Auctions, and Queen for a Day Contest. Tickets on sale now. With your help we can make this the biggest get-together the Colorado Springs and Pueblo communities have ever seen. **Atlanta Male Strippers** - (Ex Chippendale Dancers) 2 Shows, 10:00 pm. at the Annex, Midnight at the Hide & Seek.
23 **M.M.C.C.** - Prayer and Song Service, 8:00 am. at the center. **GAY PRIDE PARADE** - Anyone interested in carpooling to the parade grounds in Denver, meet at the Community Center at 9 am. A continental breakfast will be served by the Count Me In group.	***ALIVE WITH PRIDE IN "85"***					

SOURCE PUBLISHING

NOT AFRAID ANYMORE

That's right. As lesbians and gay men we have ceased being **different** and started feeling, acting, and being **the same.** When something we need cannot be found for us in the non-gay world, we have the option (duty?) to **create** it for ourselves. The Pikes Peak Gay Community Center was created as an educational, non-profit organization for lesbians and gay men. It is comprised of two basic programs: Public Education and Health & Human Development.

The first of these programs, that of **Public Education,** is concerned with outreach to the gay community and the larger community through the use of a speaker's bureau, library and archives, and the center's monthly publication **Gayspeak,** a gutsy little newsletter for and about our community and us.

The Penni Kimmel Memorial **lending library** now has over 200 titles of interest to lesbians and gay men. The use of the library is currently limited to members of PPGCC.

The **Speaker's Bureau** provides a panel generally made up of two men and two women who have come forward from different areas of our diverse community to discuss their lifestyles and attitudes, and to field questions from any host group.

The second of the center's programs is that of **Health & Human Development.** This encompasses all support groups and services desired by or necessary to the strength, growth, and solidarity of all members of the gay community. It is the guiding principle of PPGCC to do so in a non-threatening, non-judgemental, and non-exclusionary manner. Present **support groups** are: "Can We Talk?" (a mixed rap group); "Couples"; "Count Me In" (older age gays); "Parents and Friends of Gays" and "Young Men's Support Group." Other groups are organized as the need arises.

Since 1979 the center has operated the **Helpline.** Dialing 471-4(GAY) can put you in touch with trained volunteers who handle crisis counselling, information, and referrals without hassles. We are gay people — we are not helpless. We are thankful we can utilize gay or gay-sensitive professionals, volunteers, and group facilitators.

Yearly the general membership elects a six-member **Board of Directors,** which guides the center's operations, fundraising, and public relations. The center is governed by its articles of incorporation and its by-laws. The center received its **tax-exempt** status from the I.R.S. in 1982.

Lesbians and gay men are everywhere, some comfortable and some not, some very much "out," and some necessarily invisible. All of us have needs and feelings. PPGCC envisions a gay culture just bursting with pride and love and tolerance. Just below sexual freedom of choice on our goal list are protection and privacy, social freedom, access to communication and lifestyles we feel comfortable with, and **self-esteem.**

Come join our **family!** Enjoy our social events; laugh and cry with us as we struggle for our ideals. We need you — we need your experience and talents. You may be just who's needed for our board, our groups, our Helpline, or just to help us have fun. Come for any reason you want ... you may stay to make a difference.

Please take advantage of our services, whether you become a member or not. Treat yourself the way you should, or just learn to become who you are. Your tax-deductible contribution is always welcome.

The Pikes Peak Gay Community Center is located at 1809 E. De Paul in the Perry Plaza. Our mailing address is PPGCC, Box 574, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901.

HELPLINE 471-4(GAY)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR THE PIKES PEAK GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

____ $ 5.00 (student, 16 to 21 yrs.) ____ $ 7.50 (regular) ____ $ 10.00 (household)
____ $35.00 (institutional) ____ $60.00 (sustaining) ____ $120.00 (business)

I understand that any type of membership entitles me to voting privileges of the General Membership, that the membership list is confidential, and that all memberships/donations are tax deductible.

Date _____

_____ _____
(Signature) (Print name for membership card)

_____ _____ _____ _____
(Street or Box number) (City) (State) (Zip)

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____ ext. _____

_____ Total enclosed Newsletter only (non-member) $7.50 per year

Mail to: PPGCC, Box 574, Colorado Springs, CO 80901

The most optimistic of contemporary novelists may be Jane Rule, who has published lesbian novels for 20 years. Merging feminism with humanism, she creates connections in her fiction between all people, female and male, gay and straight. The stories collected in "inland Passage" (Naiad, $7.95) are about relationships between lovers, spouses, families, and friends. What is common to all is Rule's compassion for human vulnerability and appreciation of human strength. She enters equally and empathically into all her characters. Rule might be called utopian in a different sense: she shows us what our best human selves can be were we freed from oppression and prejudice.

Judy Grahn, in "Another Mother Tongue: Gay Words, Gay Worlds" (Beacon, $19.95) (see January Gayspeak) turns to the past for lessons in how to live in the contemporary world.

Lee Lynch's "The Swashbuckler" (Naiad, $7.95) spans the years that link the role-playing bar culture of the fifties with the feminist culture of today.

Lesbian books are still difficult to find and difficult to keep in print; and we have had to survive the demise of a number of feminist presses. Occasionally a novel with a strong lesbian focus, like Lisa Alther's "Other Women" (Knopf), even appears in the mainstream press. Perhaps the existence of so many hungry readers will encourage mainstream publishers (and writers) to join with the feminist presses in feeding us.

"Dragonchild," one lesbian's journey of survival through a childhood of battering and sexual abuse by Leah Pesa Kushner.

Forthcoming novels to watch for: "Moll Cutpurse," by Ellen Galford (Firebrand, $7.95). "Paz," by Camarin Grae (Blazon, $8.95). "Winter Passage," by Judith McDaniel (Spinsters, $6.95). "Spring Forward, Fall Back," by Sheila Ortiz Taylor (Naiad, $7.95).

CATEGORY
•SIX•

Gay Literature
& Lesbiana

Neil Woodward
Dan Otero

(303) 832-6263

1029 East Eleventh Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80218

GRAPHIC
IS
COURTESY
of
DENISE
SPRANGER

DANU FATT
685-4167

ON THE LEVEL

BUILDING AND REMODELING IN WOOD

Excerpted from Mama Bears News and Notes

"Dancer DaWkins and the California Kid"

Willyce Kim, well-known Bay Area poet, (Alyson, $5.95) is a delightful first novel. This is a true to life adventure of young dykes moving to San Francisco in the high days of the Haight-Ashbury. Judy Grahn describes "Willyce Kim has created a wonderful rip roaring Western Lesbian adventure that left me warm, tickled, and hoping she writes a dozen more. I loved it."

"Lavender Couch, Consumer's Guide to Psychotherapy for Lesbians and Gay Men," by Marny Hall (Alyson, $7.95). If the step to healing yourself is therapy this is an excellent overview of the therapy industry. Good for those who aren't looking for therapy as well as straight therapists who counsel gays who anyone looking for a therapist who is not homophobic.

"The Winged Dancer" by Camarin Grae (Blazon $6.95). This is a gripping absorbing thriller featuring a tough lesbian detective who follows a murder's trail and winds up in deep trouble. What starts out as a good-read thriller becomes far more intense, as author Grae probes around the roles women can play. This book furthers dialogues on class and power.

The Best Man for the Job
May Be a Woman

PIKE'S PEAK MCC

GOD LOVES GAYS ALSO!
John 3:16

SERVICES:
Sunday 5pm

730 N. TEJON • COLORADO SPRINGS

REVEREND ROGER E. WEBB, PASTOR

(303) 634-3771

It's exciting to have Gayspeak focus on women in our community. As pastor of Pikes Peak MCC I'd like to share what we do and affirm in terms of the lesbian experience. There is no hiding the fact that churches are institutions of sexism and female oppression. Certain groups are committed throughout the Body of Christ to the "submission" of women as God's plan. Allow me a brief but blunt "HOGWASH." MCC rejects such a position outright. "There is no male or female for we are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28. MCC affirms Christ's outreach and inclusion to all gender, race and sexual orientation, without preference, prejudice or pride.

Certain groups limit women from the full expression of ministry particularly when it comes to being ministers or clergy. MCC not only rejects such exclusions, 40% of our clergy re women. Furthermore, the majority of Elders who administer the UFMCC on the international level are women. Our Fellowship spent 9 years struggling with our sexism but we overcame it.

If you were to come and worship with us you would find all references to "man, mankind, brothers and brethern" removed from the scripture readings and hymns and instead "folk, humanity, brothers and sisters and people" in their place. When it comes to reference to God we affirm there is more than 138 names that describe God beside "Father." People are welcome to use any one of them.

Our women are having their first "all women's gathering" this month. Hopefully this will help set the agenda from identifying the specific needs of our gay sisters in Christ.

We invite the women of this community to try us out. We are a Christian church that affirms the uniqueness of women to themselves, each other and to their God. At present Pikes Peak MCC has an equal amount of female and male members and our goal is to maintain such a balance.

Finally, as a male and as a Christian pastor I want you to know that I believe God has given a very special beauty and worth to women. God has given a very special beauty and worth to men. Though we are not drawn to each other for purposes of marriage or by sexual inclination we are nevertheless able to be drawn together because of our personhood, our humanity and our mutual need for Christ Jesus. Separatism and or sexism are not for us. God bless you.

LESBIAN BATTERY

This problem seems new. It is new only in our awareness of it. Yes, lesbian battery is a problem in our community. The silence must be broken. The battered-women's movement and the lesbian community must work together. We must all demand accountability from the lesbian abusers. We must provide support and protection for the survivor/ victims.

Three major types of abuse exist: physical, psychological and sexual.

The "average" lesbian abuser has the following characteristics. She has very low self esteem. She is emotionally dependent on her partner. She is insecure in the relationship. she is extremely jealous. She often abuses alcohol and drugs as an outlet for her fears, insecurity and rage. She probably grew up in a violent home where she was a victim of abuse or molestation. She has a sense of overhill in kindness and in cruelty. She is extremely tender and loving one moment, then abusive and violent the next.

The victim stays with the abuser for many complex reasons. She tries to change herself, the relationship, the abuser, or a combination of these. The violence (physical, psychological, or sexual) cannot be solved by the victim. The abusive pattern comes from the abuser. She is the only person who can stop it.

The abuser and victim characteristics are similar for lesbian and heterosexual partners. Getting help is not similar. It is far more difficult for the lesbian victim. Many battered women shelters have homophobic counselors and staff. The abuse victim may not call the police because historically police victimized gays. She may fear making her relationship public by filing charges. And she may feel shame at being physically abused by another woman.

Colorado Springs offers help to lesbian battery victims. The Domestic Violence Prevention Center offers a shelter for ALL women (lesbians included) needing safety and a supportive environment. 24-hour counseling and intervention are available. Call the hotline: 633-3819. You can also make an appointment to see a counselor. All services are CONFIDENTIAL. The DVP Center also provides support groups for the victims. Don't hesitate to call

The National Lesbian Task Force on Domestic Violence is seeking data on this silent problem. If you have a story, poetry, fiction, or artwork to contribute, please contact Cindi at 633-3819.

Lesbian Battery is a serious problem. We must educate ourselves and one another. Together we can make this behavior unacceptable. Together we can make lesbian battery a problem of the past.

WHEN GOD WAS A WOMAN

Merlin Stone's "When God Was a Woman" is for those seriously interested in sexual emancipation and religion. It is a shocking book, the more so because it is not a book about fantasies, opinions, or wishes. It is a book about the origins of Judeo-Christian-Islamic attitudes toward women, based on a straight-forward examination of the scriptures, historical documents, and artifacts from the Middle East where female deities once reigned supreme. The imposition of a male warrior-god (Jehovah) was accomplished through thousands of years of terror imposed by Northern invaders. The Levites, separated from their own agricultural homelands and thus "abandoned" by their own protective spirits, sought help in an abstract god in whose name they conquered the "promised land" and justified the massacre of men and the subjugation of women. For centuries after their initial conquest, the people of Canaan continued to secretly engage in the rites of female religion. The fruit tree and the snake - made famous in the Bible in the story of Adam and Eve - were symbols of immortality and wisdom. The sacrificial son or consort was eventually resurrected as the Messiah. The Goddess herself (Hathor, Astarte, Isis, Nany, Nut, Anat, Ishara, Ishtar, asherah, Ashtart, Attoret, Anahita, among others) was resurrected, in greatly altered form, as Mary, who worships her own son and denies her own sexuality.

In both the "Old World" and the "New World," homosexuality was respected before the imposition of patriarchal religious institutions, social life was more democratic and egalitarian than it is today, nature was the object of worship rather than the object of exploitation, and the gods were protective and close at hand rather than far away and punishing. As the struggle for patriarchal domination took place, the gods themselves became contentious. Another book by merlin Stone, "Ancient Mirrors of Womanhood," is a compilation of stories or myths about deities in various parts of the ancient world, bearing evidence of the struggles among humans reflected in their religious beliefs. Taken together, her books are a powerful assertion of the idea that human beings are, pre-eminantly, the creators of their own deities. Who or what we worship is a reflection of our own history and experience, of our fears an hopes both individually and as a people. Knowing this can help to make us more powerful, less hypocritical and more compassionate.

A. Gabriel

DALE STREET CAFE

a friendly eating and gathering place
specializing in breakfast, lunch and light suppers
— desserts and wine bar too!

115 East Dale
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

578-9898

Women's Health Service Clinic

Gynecological Clinic
- Annual Exams
- Birth Control (including cervical caps)
- PMS • Menopause
- Abortion Services

Non Profit – Reasonable Fees
Confidentiality Respected – All Ages

FREE PREGNANCY TESTING

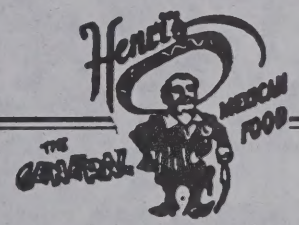
111 EAST DALE, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80903 • (303) 471-9492

LESBIAN SEX

"Lesbian Sex" by JoAnn Loulan (spinsters InK, $9.95) sold 100 copies in February at Mama Bears, a women's bookstore in OaKland. It is easy to understand why this book is so popular. We have been hungry for this comprehensive information forever; it is long overdue. "Lesbian Sex" is much more than a sex manual. Written by a lesbian-feminist counselor, after years of research and interviews with over 2000 lesbians, this book offers a thorough analysis of our position in society as well as practical suggestions with deep understanding of what you want out of sex.

We learn about the barriers to sexuality and homophobia both internalized and externalized. This book discusses sex and disability, motherhood, sobriety, aging, youth, coming out, being single, longterm relationships, the tyranny of orgasm and more. A must read book for every woman and especially those who want to make changes in expression and understanding of their sexuality.

a.C.



Henri's Mexican-American Food Restaurant & Cantina

"South of the border atmosphere"

LUNCHEON SPECIAL

Small Combination Plate (Taco, Tostada, Enchilada), Guacamole Salad and Henri's famous Margarita.

All for $3.00

The oldest, locally-owned Mexican Restaurant in Colorado Springs
Established 1947

2427 W. Colorado Ave.
634-9031

Happy Hour
4 P.M. to 7 P.M.

Open
Tuesday-Saturday
Lunch 11:30 to 3:00
Dinner 3:00 to 10:00
(Free Parking in rear)

VISA CHOICE

The HIDE AND SEEK

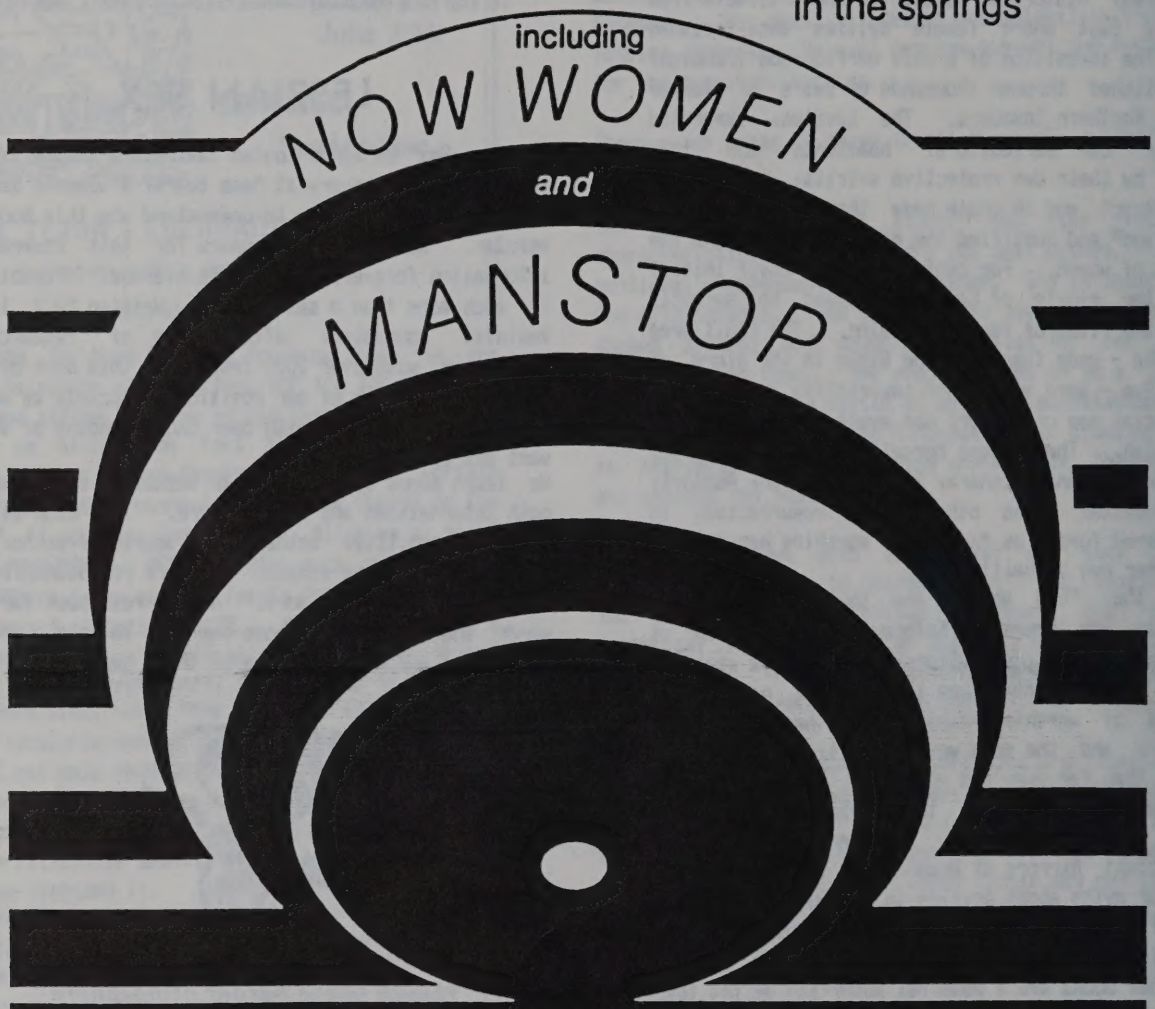
in the springs

including

NOW WOMEN

and

MANSTOP



Open Mon. through Sat. from noon til 2:00 am.
After hours till 4:00 pm Fri. and Sat. night.

Happy Hours from noon to 8:00 pm 7 days a week.

512 W. Colorado **634-9303**